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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY 25X1REPORT

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY China

DATE DISTR. 28 Feb. 1950

SUBJECT Famine Conditions in Anhwei

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

- 25X1 1. An estimated 500,000 peasants in the Anhwei famine areas are organizing themselves into unarmed bands, called Yu Chih Tui (游吃隊). These bands move into areas where there is food, remain there till the food is exhausted, and then move on, taking along all the people from that area who are able to move.
2. Provincial authorities seem to be unable to control this movement.
3. Eight out of ten people in the Chuhsien (118-15, 32-15) area are now grubbing for herbs and grass for food. This is the result of the pitiless rice requisitions imposed by the Communists and the consistent crop failures. Since the winter wheat harvest is at least two months away and since even seed rice has been confiscated, starvation will be general and will continue for a long time.
4. Communist authorities are quoted by the local populace as saying, "If they have no rice, let the people eat vegetables." The feeling against the authorities is bitter but unorganized. A local saying is, "It took CHIUNG Kai-shek twenty years to lose the hearts of the people, but the Communists have done it in eight months."

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